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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE
AND HOME ECONOMICS.U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES
COOPERATING.STATES RELATIONS SERVICE,
OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK, SOUTH.
(Farmers' Cooperative Dem. Work)
Washington, D. C.CURRANT AND GOOSEBERRY CULTURE.*

In many counties in certain sections of the South work of this kind should be taken up by the girls who have had two or three years' experience in the clubs. Circular No. A-82, from this Office, gives suggestions in regard to having the girls begin certain perennial vegetables and fruits in their gardens after they have grown such crops as tomatoes and beans for one or more years. Doubtless many of our leading agents and best trained girls will be able to take up the culture of the currants and gooseberries as well as other small fruits in sections well adapted to them.

"The gooseberry and currant should be grown by canning club members only in Maryland, West Virginia, Northern Kentucky and the mountain regions of the other states. Both of these fruits are natives of the cool northern part of the United States and will not do well in the warmer parts. They both grow in the form of a bush and their culture is very similar. They are used for similar purposes, for making jelly, jam and other preserves. The currant, however, seems to be liked best by the American people.

Selection and Preparation of Soil.

Select the one-tenth of an acre of ground for growing your currants and gooseberries in the coolest place possible. Choose a northern or northeastern slope for your plants if you can. The soil should be well drained and fertile. One of the heavier types, such as silt or clay soil, should be preferred to a lighter type.

Plow the soil just as early in the spring as possible and apply two wagon loads of stable manure. Harrow this in. If more convenient the manure may be applied before plowing.

THE Downing gooseberry is the best variety to use. There are other good new varieties such as the Carrie, Jesslyn, Oregon and Poorman, but these have not been sufficiently tested in the South to be sure that it will pay to grow them.

Only the red currants should be grown in any quantity. The white varieties are not generally very popular, though a few mixed with the red kinds are very attractive. The white varieties are not as acid and are not liked as well for preserving. You may take your choice of several varieties of red currants, all of which are very good. The Perfection, London (London Market) Red Cross, Wilder and Albert (Prince Albert) are all desirable. The White Grape is the best white variety.

*Note - - These instructions have been prepared by Mr. Geo. W. Darrow of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

SELECTION OF PLANTS: Either one year old or two year old plants may be ordered and will prove satisfactory. As the currant and gooseberry start growing very early in the spring, the plants should be ordered during the winter with the condition that only entirely dormant plants be sent. The plants should be promptly secured from the station after their arrival. They should be set at once, or, if this is not possible, a trench should be dug in the ground, the plants separated from each other, and all but their tops covered.

PLANTING: The plants may be set either in late fall or in early spring, They should be set 4 feet apart in rows 6 feet apart. You will need 180 plants to set the one-tenth of an acre. When setting the plants out cut off all broken roots. If the tops are very long they should be cut back to 12 inches in length. The plants should be set slightly deeper than they stood in the nursery. The soil should be well firmed about the roots.

FERTILIZERS: Stable manure is the best fertilizer to use on your field. If two loads are applied before the plants are set no more will be needed for the first year. Stable manure is a good thing to apply just before winter comes. Hen droppings are frequently used for gooseberries. Some of you may need more fertilizer than I have indicated, some may need less. You must watch your plants grow and try putting on more or less fertilizer on parts of your field to find out just what you need.

PRUNING: Six or eight main branches are needed to form a symmetrical top which will bear the most fruit. During the first two years pruning will consist simply in cutting out the weakest shoots. Later, pruning will consist in cutting out the shoots which are three years old, and allowing a strong young shoot to take the place of each one cut out. Any branches lopping on the ground should be removed.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Generally the only pest in the plantation will be the currant worm. Dusting the leaves with hellebore, at the rate of one pound of hellebore to 5 pounds of flour or air-slacked lime will control the worm.

YIELDS: During the first year no fruit will be secured. During the second year very little fruit will be borne. If the bushes have grown well by the third year you should average over one pint per plant, and some should secure a quart per plant. By the fourth year the plants will be in full bearing and you should secure 2 to 6 quarts per bush.

PROPAGATION: New plants of currants and gooseberries are made by cutting off shoots of the new growth late in the fall after the leaves have dropped. These cuttings are buried in the ground until spring and then set out in a row about six inches apart. Only two buds should be left above ground. By fall plants for setting will have grown."

The agents are requested to order from time to time as many copies of this circular as they need for girls who are to take up the work along these lines.

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